

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/697,013

Examiner

Sanza L McClendon

Applicant(s)

WAKIYA ET AL.

Art Unit

1711

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 2/16/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 6-23.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 10/019,055.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
- ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
- ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
- ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
- ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. In response to the Amendment received on February 16, 2005, the examiner has carefully considered the amendments. The examiner acknowledges the addition of new claims 18-23.

Terminal Disclaimer

2. The terminal disclaimer filed on February 16, 2005 disclaiming the terminal portion of any patent granted on this application which would extend beyond the expiration date of US Patent No. 6,693,142 has been reviewed and is accepted. The terminal disclaimer has been recorded.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

3. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Burton Amernick on March 21, 2005.

The application has been amended as follows:

Delete in claim 6, line 1 the word "*obtainable*" and insert in its stead the word "obtained".

Delete in claim 12, line 1 the word "*obtainable*" and insert in its stead the word "obtained".

Delete in claim 18, line 1 the word "*obtainable*" and insert in its stead the word "obtained".

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 6-23 are allowed.

5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: In the examiner's opinion, the production method is deemed to be directed to an unobvious improvement over the prior art polymers made by similar methods. The improvement comprises the production of polymers having an unexpected higher percentage of terminal-functional groups when compared with the prior art polymers and methods—see the examples and comparative examples in the disclosure. In addition it appears said method produces polymers having a narrower molecular weight distribution, as well as, a higher percentage of functional-terminal group introduction when compared to other similar polymers made by similar production methods. The polymers are distinguished from those of the prior art because they have unexpected higher percentage of terminal functional groups when produced by the claimed process. While the prior art teaches production methods for functional group terminated vinyl polymers, the prior art fails to teach a method that comprises irradiating with light or by heating in the presence of a radical polymerization initiator. Nor in a method that comprises irradiating in the presence of light irradiation or light irradiation in the presence of a tin or a bismuth compound, or by thermal exposure or by thermal exposure in the presence of a tin or bismuth compound. Nor a method carried out by light irradiation or by light irradiation in the presence of a Group 14-16 metal compound or, in the alternative, by heating or heating in the presence of a Group 14 to 16 metal compound, as found in the claims. Therefore, the functional group terminated vinyl polymer obtained by the claimed production methods of the instant invention is deemed patentable in view of the teaching in the prior art.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

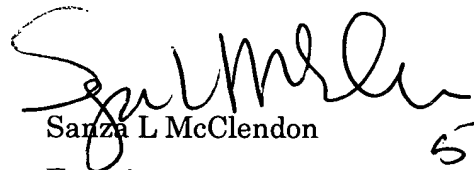
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Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sanza L McClendon whose telephone number is (571) 272-1074. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 7:30-4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Seidleck can be reached on (571) 272-1078. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Sanza L McClendon
Examiner

6/13/05

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